

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-16 and 21-23 without prejudice to the filing of future continuing applications.

Please replace claims 17-20 and 24-28 with the following claims 17-20 and 24-28.

Claims 1-16 (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) ~~a~~ A method of producing ~~the sustained-release composition according to claim 1~~ a sustained-release composition containing a biologically active substance or salt thereof, a hydroxynaphthoic acid or salt thereof and a biodegradable polymer or salt thereof, comprising removing the organic solvent from a mixture of a bioactive substance or salt thereof in an organic solvent, a biodegradable polymer or salt thereof, and hydroxynaphthoic acid or a salt thereof.

18. (Currently amended) ~~a~~ The method of ~~producing the sustained-release composition according to~~ claim 17, comprising mixing and dispersing a bioactive substance or salt thereof in an organic solvent solution containing a biodegradable polymer or salt thereof and hydroxynaphthoic acid or a salt thereof, and subsequently removing the organic solvent.

19. (Currently amended) ~~a~~ The method of producing the sustained-release composition according to claim 18, wherein the bioactive substance or salt thereof is in the form of an aqueous solution.

20. (Currently amended) ~~a~~ The production method according to claim 17, wherein the salt of the bioactive substance is a salt with a free base or acid.

Claims 21-23 (Cancelled)

24. (Currently amended) **a A** method of suppressing bioactive substance initial burst from a sustained-release composition, comprising ~~using~~ **adding** hydroxynaphthoic acid or a salt thereof **to the sustained-release composition**.

25. (Currently amended) **a A** method of increasing the efficiency of bioactive substance inclusion in a sustained-release composition, comprising ~~using~~ **adding** hydroxynaphthoic acid or a salt thereof **to the sustained-release composition**.

26. (Currently amended) **a A** hydroxynaphthoate of a bioactive peptide.

27. (Currently amended) **a The** hydroxynaphthoate of a bioactive peptide according to claim 26, which is soluble in water or very slightly soluble in water.

28. (Currently amended) **a A** sustained-release composition containing the hydroxynaphthoate of a bioactive peptide.